

Clean Power Plan Poses Great Challenges for Manufacturers

Posted by: [Ross Eisenberg](#) under [Energy](#) on November 3, 2015 @ 11:48 am

Manufacturers have long demonstrated their commitment to environmental sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Since 2005, manufacturers' annual GHG emissions have fallen by more than 10 percent while our value added to the economy has increased by 26 percent. We are producing more, while emitting less. In addition, manufacturers' technological innovations and ingenuity have been integral in U.S. annual emissions falling by 700 million tons since 2005, which is a reduction greater than any other nation in the world.

U.S. manufacturers can and will continue to add value and jobs to the economy, while developing the next generation of energy and environmental technologies; however, we need balanced and commonsense policies to do so. The Clean Power Plan is not the answer. Of immediate concern is the impact this rule will have on the availability and costs of energy to power our facilities. By design, this rule will increase electricity rates at a time when countries like China and India have given no indication that they are willing to commit to anything close to equivalent, thus ceding a potentially huge cost advantage to some of our largest competitors. But perhaps even more concerning is the precedent this unprecedented rule will set for future rules of manufacturing sectors. In assigning its GHG reduction requirements for power plants, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has called for reductions beyond what a single plant owner can do at his or her own facility. How a similar approach might be applied to manufacturers' operations in future rules is of great concern.

It is time to go back to the drawing board on the Clean Power Plan. Unfortunately, the EPA's rulemaking process leaves manufacturers with few options: litigate or seek congressional intervention. The NAM is encouraged that the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power is considering a Congressional Review Act (CRA) Resolution of Disapproval for both the new and existing power plant rules. The NAM encourages the subcommittee members to vote in favor of H.J. Resolution 71 and 72.

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